Thereto prickt on by a most emulate pride,
Dar'd to the combate; in which our valiant *Hamlet*,
(For so this side of our knowne world esteem'd him)
Did slay this *Fortinbrasse*, who by a seal'd compact,
Well ratified by Law and Heraldry,
Did forfeit (with his life) all these his lands
Which he stood seiz'd of, to the Conquerour:
Against the which a moity competent
VVas gaged by our King, which had returne
To the inheritance of *Fortinbrasse*,
Had he bin vanquisht; as by the same co-mart,
And carriage of the Articles designe,
His fell to *Hamlet*: now sir, young *Fortinbrasse*,
Of unimproved metall, hot, and full,
Hath in the skirts of *Norway* here and there
Sharkt up a list of lawlesse resolutes,
For food and diet to some enterprise
That hath a stomacke in't, which no other
As it doth well appeare unto our state,
But to recover of us by strong hand
And tearmes compulsatory, those foresaid lands
So by his father lost: and this I take it
Is the maine motive of our preparations,
The source of this our watch, and the chiefe head
Of this poste haste, and romeage in the land.
Bar. I thinke it be no other but even so:
VVell may it sort that this portentous figure
Comes armed through our watch so like the King
That was and is the question of these warres.
Hora. A mote it is to trouble the mindes eye.
In the most high and palmy state of Rome,
A little ere the mightiest *Julius* fell,
The graves stood tenantlesse, and the sheeted dead
Did squeake and gibber in the Roman streets,
As starres with traines of fire, and dewes of blood,
Disasters in the sunne, and the moist starre,
Upon whose influence *Neptunes* Empire stands,
VVas sicke almost to Doomesday with eclipse,

And

And even the like precurse of fierce events,
As harbingers preceding still the fates
And Prologue to the *Omen* comming on,
Have heaven and earth together demonstrated
Unto our Climatures and Countrimen.

Enter Ghost.

But soft, behold! lo where it comes againe,
Ile crosse it though it blast me: Stay illusion, *It spreads his armes.*
If thou hast any sound, or use of voice,
Speake to me: if there be any good thing to be done,
That may to thee doe ease, and grace to me,
Speake to me.
If thou art privie to thy Countries fate,
Which happely foreknowing may avoid,
O speake:
Or if thou hast uphoorded in thy life
Extorted treasure in the wombe of earth,
For which they say your spirits oft walke in death, *The cocke crowes.*
Speake of it, stay and speake; stop it *Marcellus*.
Mar. Shall I strike it with my partisan?
Hor. Doe if it will not stand.
Bar. 'Tis here.
Hor. 'Tis here.
Mar. 'Tis gone.
We doe it wrong, being so Majesticall,
To offer it the shew of violence:
For it is as the aire, invulnerable,
And our vaine blowes malicious mockery.
Bar. It was about to speake when the cocke crew.
Hor. And then it started, like a guilty thing
Upon a fearefull summons: I have heard,
The cocke, that is the trumpet to the morne,
Doth with his lofty and shrill sounding throat
Awake the God of day; and at his warning,
Whether in sea or fire, in earth or aire,
Th'extravagant and erring spirit hyes
To his confine; and of the truth herein
This present object made probation.

Mar.